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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,527	01/10/2002	Robert V. Bell	T-6093	6227

7590 02/22/2007
Steven R. Ellinwood
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EXAMINER

BHAT, NINA NMN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1764

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/043,527

Applicant(s)

BELL ET AL.

Examiner

N. Bhat

Art Unit

1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3 and 6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 12, 2006 has been entered.
2. Applicant's amendments and arguments of December 7, 2006 have been fully and carefully considered. Applicant's arguments regarding the Utterback reference regarding the differences between spray coking and delayed coking that on process is continuous as opposed to delayed coking being a batch or semi-continuous process is persuasive and accordingly the rejections over Utterback, and Utterback in view of Gibson is withdrawn. A new search has been conducted and new ground of rejection follows:
3. Claims 2-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Lah USP 6,660,131.

Lah teaches a coke drum deheading system which removes coke from a delayed coking unit or coke drum which permits removal of coke without having to physically remove the head units, but using a specifically designed dual seated, linear motion goggle blind gate valve is removably coupled to and seals against the flanged portion of coke drum. Lah specifically teaches in Column 9, lines 30 et seq, that the system is capable of repeated and automatic unheated or deheading and re-heading of a coke drum with any manned activity at or nearby the coke drum, which significantly improves the safety and efficiency of the delayed coking process. The dual seated, linear motion goggle blind gate valve attaches directly to the coke drum flange or to a transitions pool above the device and to a stationary coke chute below the device the shut can discharge directly into a pit or into rail cars. The system has the flexibility to

Art Unit: 1764

allow safe drainage of coke and drum water through its outlet port and into the pit without any spillage onto the de-heading deck. As described by Lah, the delayed coker system which employs the dual seated, linear motion fully metal seated isolation device, will provide a process for repetitively producing and removing coke from a delayed coker vessel, wherein the coker vessel has bottom portion defining an aperture through which coke is released, and the steps of sealing the aperture closure housing to the bottom portion of the coker vessel, moving the closure member within the closure housing to close aperture, and provides heavy hydrocarbon feed into the coker vessel. The system of Lah is capable of effecting coking of the heavy hydrocarbon in the delayed coking vessel, and the dual seated, linear motion goggle blind gate valve permits the removal of the coke from the coker vessel through the aperture. Lah teaches applicant's method for repetitively producing and removing coke from a delayed coking vessel as claimed. However, with respect to applicant's specific repetition of steps as claimed in step g of the process, although not specifically claimed it would have been obvious to follow the sequence of steps as delineated by applicant from reading Lah who teaches a device for repetitively producing and removing coke from a delayed coker vessel and its operation is of the device renders applicant's invention obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bosi et al. does not qualify as prior art but is the closest art to applicant's invention and owned by the same assignee. Lah '081 teaches a valve system and method for unheading a coke drum.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to N. Bhat whose telephone number is 571-272-1397. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30AM-6:00PM.

Art Unit: 1764

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



N. Bhat
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1764